

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for detecting microorganisms or cells wherein microorganisms or cells contained in a sample are captured on the surface of the adhesive layer of a collection sheet having a substrate layer containing a focusing marker, an adhesive layer having a predetermined thickness and deposited on this substrate layer, the microorganisms or cells are stained by a staining reagent, and after being automatically focused, the light receiving optical system or the collection sheet is moved relatively by a distance equivalent to that obtained by adding the distance from the surface of the substrate layer to the position of the focusing marker to the predetermined thickness of the adhesive layer from the focusing position by this autofocusing reference point, the microorganisms or cells on the adhesive layer are automatically focused, and a light is radiated on the focused adhesive layer to measure the image and detect the microorganisms or cells.